

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 7th February 1903.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

149. The *Behar Times* inveighs against the location of the Arrah Civil Court building in the heart of the town and in the vicinity of the burning ghât, thereby exposing all who have business in the court to all sorts of contagious diseases. It suggests that either the court be removed outside the town or that a few tents be erected around the circuit-house on the maidan as the easiest and cheapest solution of the difficulty.

BIHAR TIMES,
30th Jan. 1903.

150. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes the judgment of the District and Sessions Judge of Rangpur setting aside the conviction of Babu Tara Pada Mazumdar, a contractor, who undertook to construct the police premises at Nilphamari, but did not fulfil his contract.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
1st Jan. 1903.

It would seem that the Inspector of Nilphamari moved the Subdivisional Officer to prosecute the contractor criminally, but the latter refused process on the ground that the case was a civil one and the Inspector should go to a civil court. Instead of doing this, however, a Sub-Inspector of Police reported the matter to the District Superintendent of Police, and on the *ex-parte* and incomplete report of this officer, the District Superintendent of Police moved the District Magistrate to issue a warrant, which was done. The Sessions Judge has made strong remarks on the conduct of the police, and the journal hopes the Government will take notice of the case and that the Police Commission will also note it as an instance of the evils arising out of the District Magistrate being the head of the police.

151. Reverting to this case, the same paper says:—"Now to avoid these scandals, the Police and the Magistracy must be separated. If the Rangpur Magistrate were not the head of the police, he would have carefully enquired into the case before issuing a warrant at the mere request of the Police Superintendent. It is the system which is at fault; and so long as the Magistrate continues to be the head of the police, such scandals shall continue to occur. As for the contractor, we think he has a clear case against the police. That is the opinion of some eminent counsel here."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Feb. 1903.

152. The *Indian Mirror*, commenting on the punishment of six weeks' simple imprisonment passed on Private William Morris of the Welsh Regiment, accused of causing the death of a Punjab Policeman at Delhi, asks Lord Curzon to note "these judicial proceedings. This is lending a premium by the civil judiciary to military crime."

INDIAN MIRROR,
3rd Feb. 1903.

153. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* finds that in this as in the case of the IXth Lancers, the soldiers tried to screen the culprit, and the action of the Commanding Officer was still more extraordinary. Instead of sending up for identification the 10 or 15 soldiers who were at the scene of the scuffle, he took the strange step of sending down 36 men, and so made the matter of identification more difficult, but luckily the offender was satisfactorily identified. As for the judgment of the Deputy Commissioner the journal says:—

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th Feb. 1903.

"The evidence shewed that a big stone had been thrown at the deceased which killed him. But the Magistrate evolves a theory out of his imagination to the effect that there was a scuffle, and this theory, purely imaginary and not sustained by a tittle of evidence, enables him to award the nominal punishment of six weeks' simple imprisonment upon a British soldier who caused the death of a policeman while doing his duty."

154. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, with reference to the case of Captain Banon, asks whether a man who makes a private complaint to Government against certain officers, can be prosecuted for defamation.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th Feb. 1903.

This point should be decided by the Chief Court, as the public impression is that no one runs a risk unless he publishes the allegations in a newspaper or in any other way, and upon its correct decision depends the

solution of the question whether or not a person has the privilege of bringing privately to the notice of the Government the alleged misconduct of a public servant.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

BENGALIEE,
1st Feb. 1903.

155. The *Bengalee* ventures to think that the majority of the residents of Calcutta would have cheerfully foregone the pleasure of witnessing the illuminations in exchange for some improvement in the lighting of the shamefully neglected streets and lanes of the city. It is rather grieved than gratified by the wasteful exhibition. The only people who, in its opinion, have been benefited by the celebration in Calcutta are the Jehus, and, as some writers in the Press are at a loss to discover what honours or rewards could be fittingly bestowed upon Lord Curzon for the success of the Delhi Darbar, the *Bengalee* craves leave to suggest that His Excellency be canonized as the patron saint of the cab-drivers.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

INDIAN MIRROR,
3rd Feb. 1903.

156. The *Indian Mirror* reverts to the subject of the absolute necessity of adopting the alignment of the Murshidabad Branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway *via* Santipore, and appeals to the Viceroy to bestow such consideration on the people of this historic town, as they deserve, or to grant them such other relief as the circumstances of the case may require.

(h)—*General.*

EAST,
31st Feb. 1903

157. The *East* bewails the relations existing between the rulers and the ruled, and appeals to Englishmen to consider whether their treatment of the Indian is calculated to inspire them with confidence and regard. At the same time it reads its countrymen the following lesson:—

"Then again our countrymen have to think whether they ought ever to go on carping on the faults of the rulers and at the same time expect good treatment. There is a class of educated men, and a large class it is, who have been made to look upon the dark side of British character and administration in this country by the thoughtless writings of some of our publicists. Look at the attitude of the native press, with a few exceptions, towards Lord Curzon in connection with the Delhi Durbar. For the one or two or three measures to which they cannot lend their support, they condemn his whole administration as almost a failure, and all the good things he has done or means to do are utterly and ungratefully forgotten. This is how we estrange the sympathies of our rulers and our best well-wishers."

EAST,
31st Jan. 1903.

158. The *East* is exceedingly sorry to find His Excellency persecuted. In the fulness of time India will realize the truth of Lord Curzon's sayings and doings, for, in the opinion of the journal, His Excellency is a great man in the political world, and for this very reason he is being misunderstood and misrepresented at home and in India. His opponents will agree on one point, however, that His Excellency has done something practical in his encouragement of Indian arts and industries. Yet the *East* would suggest that Government subsidise some firms or companies floated in India for particular industries by at least buying its materials from them, like the army clothing, military stores and various other articles of large consumption, instead of taking recourse to foreign importation.

INDIAN MIRROR
31st Jan. 1903.

159. The *Indian Mirror* makes an appeal to Lord Curzon and Lord Kitchener to institute a searching independent enquiry into the conduct of the West Riding Regiment at the recent celebrations in Calcutta, and remove this obnoxious regiment from Calcutta as soon as possible. The Indian citizens of the metropolis are in dread of them, owing to their unruly behaviour, and European evidence would, the journal thinks, also be forthcoming on this point.

160. The same journal, noticing the Lieutenant-Governor's congratulations to the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality and the Commissioner of Police upon the successful carrying out of the recent public functions, refers once more to the feast to the Calcutta poor, and, judging from some of the undesirable actions of the police, the brutality of the West Riding Regiment in certain specified instances, and the absence of food in the Muhammadan Camp, describes this event as a *fiasco*.

INDIAN MIRROR,
31st Jan. 1903.

161. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* returns to the subject of the appointment of soldiers on guard duty on the occasion of the feeding of the poor on the maidan, and says that no doubt the bad behaviour of the West Ridings was due to their ill-feeling towards the Viceroy. The 9th Lancers incident has, in the opinion of the journal, increased military aggression, but the *Patrika* is sure that Lord Curzon is yet strong enough to show that he will not tolerate such brutal acts on inoffensive natives as were committed on Tuesday.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
31st Jan. 1903.

As to the Lieutenant-Governor's congratulations to the police, the journal would have liked His Honour to have merged himself in the crowd and seen things for himself. The beating by the police was sometimes merciless, and so much for the excellence of their arrangements, it is related that Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohan Tagore was put to intolerable inconvenience, and but for the help of a Hindu gentleman, might not have returned home before 1 o'clock in the morning.

162. The *Bengalee*, commenting upon the cordial relations which subsisted between Sir Andrew Fraser as Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, and the leaders and representatives of the people of those provinces, says that Sir Andrew will find in enlightened Bengal the natives prone to apply a very different standard in criticising the policies and measures of the Head of the Administration. Bengal will not judge him by his professions alone or by the kindly qualities of his heart or the suavity of his manners, but in reconciling conflicting claims, by his notions of justice and fairplay, and by the character of his administration.

BENGALIEE,
31st Jan. 1903.

163. In the Committee of the Imperial Library the *Bengalee* finds only one Indian, *viz.*, Mr. Justice Guru Das Banerjee. It hopes the list will be a little more elastic and include Messrs. Kali Charan Bannerjee, G.C. Basu, Pandits Nilmani Nyayalankar, and Hara Prosad Shastri, and Babu Chandra Nath Basu.

BENGALIEE,
1st Feb. 1903.

164. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes most appreciatively of His Excellency's work in connection with the Imperial Library, and as some measure of reward of Lord Curzon's excellent organisation, it says that the least the residents of Calcutta can do is to abundantly avail themselves of the facilities offered.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
2nd Feb. 1903.

165. The *Bengalee* noticed a new departure in the arrangement of seats for Indian noblemen at the opening of the Imperial Library. They were not permitted on the *dias* which was reserved for European officials only. At the Darbar recently held at Bankipore by His Excellency, the first three rows were reserved for European officials as well as non-officials, with the result that many a big zamindar found to his surprise his European or Eurasian manager taking precedence over himself.

BENGALIEE,
1st Feb. 1903.

The *Bengalee* cannot understand what object the rulers can have in view in thus going out of their way to wound the feelings of the very men who are often described as the "Pillars of the Empire."

166. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* thinks that the gift of Mr. Phipps can be very fittingly utilised in importing American implements for the development of the agricultural resources of this country. Another way of utilising the gift would be, with a further aid from the Government, opening a technical institution, but the *Patrika* is more in favour of the former course and hopes that Mr. Phipps will take the suggestion into consideration when the proposed consultation between himself and the Government comes off.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Feb. 1903.

BEHAR HERALD,
4th Feb. 1903

167. To stop the drain from India the first essential, says the *Behar Herald*, is for the natives of India to secure for themselves their natural right of *free and unres-*

tricted employment in the public service of their country. This right should be incessantly and urgently demanded, and it is hoped that the time is not far distant when there will be a satisfactory settlement of the claims of Indians without involving much sacrifice to the rulers.

BENGAL LEE
5th Feb. 1903.

168. The *Bengalee* publishes almost two columns of reflections suggested by the violence practised by soldiers and policemen on Indians. They are mostly satirical, as for

Military and police violence.

instance the following:—

"Red Tommy is in fact the most perfect symbol of Western civilization in Asia. He is the one perennial source of prosperity in our midst. English education, the Penal Code, the increase in the national wealth as shown in the increase of foreign commerce, the national debt, which is the surest sign of the national progress in the paths of enlightenment and civilization, all owe their origin to the crimson British soldier. If, therefore, Tommy now and again indulges in small acts of violence, we the people of this country should be pronounced to be worse than ungrateful if we want to bring him to justice. And if he was brought to justice, hauled up before a court of law, what then? His previous excellent character, his inoffensive habits among his comrades, and the natural weakness of the internal organs of the Indians would all have to be considered * * *

"The red-puggreed Policeman is the visible emblem to us of the might of the British Empire. The British soldier is all red. The Policeman is only partially crimson. The Policeman therefore is entitled partially to the privileges of Tommy. One of Tommy's privileges is to thrash the blacks whenever the spirit moves him. The Policeman therefore is entitled to thrash the blacks on occasions."

It concludes by recommending the "black humanity" of India to read and assimilate Boethius' *Consolations of Philosophy*, than which there is no better or speedier cure for the hurt and pain caused by Tommy's cane and the Policeman's baton.

III.—LEGISLATION.

BENGAL LEE,
31st Feb. 1903.

170. While the *Bengalee* is not opposed to the tea industry and would be glad to see it revived, the method which, at the suggestion of Lord Curzon, the Indian tea-growers

The Tea Cess Bill.

are adopting to revive their drooping enterprise, is open to serious objection, economic and otherwise, and the new departure which the Indian Government propose to make to further the interests of the tea-growers is highly objectionable.

Over-production first caused the decrease in prices, and then it was increased further to obviate the necessary consequences of that decline, and, finally, the old glut in the market being still further increased, brought the whole business to the brink of ruin. This is the actual situation out of which Lord Curzon has been trying to help the tea industry now. It is with a view to help the tea-market expansion movement that the proposed tea cess is sought to be imposed.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
5th Feb. 1903.

171. The *Hindoo Patriot* for the present desires to note that its opposition to the Indian Tea Cess Bill is purely on general

Ibid.

and economic grounds. It is necessary for the representatives of the other industries to speak out. There are many nascent industries, like rhea, which possessing great possibilities also need careful development and a helping hand.

BENGAL LEE,
5th Feb. 1903.

172. The *Bengalee* reverts to this subject, and in view of the Viceroy's hint, thrown out to the tea-planters some years

Ibid.

ago, that an attempt should be made to induce the tea-habit in the Indian people, finds it impossible to accept as absolutely correct Sir Montague Turner's statement, in introducing the Tea Cess Bill in Council, that the cess will be used to create new markets and expand the existing markets for Indian tea only in foreign lands. In spite of Sir Montague's statement therefore, the *Bengalee* is compelled to take it that the object of the cess is to induce the tea-habit in the Indian people, and, therefore, it

emphatically protests against the novel measure which in plain words aims at the creation of a market for Indian tea, grown by British capitalists in India, with a view to help them earn their usual dividends.

173. Returning to this subject, the *Bengalee* is surprised and disappointed to find so little attention being paid to this measure by the press and public men so far. It realizes the

BENGALIE,
6th Feb. 1903.

delicacy with which many people view this question, and the natural hesitancy they feel in opposing a measure which apparently affects the general public in no way. But when examined closely, the Bill is found not to be such a simple thing as it appears on the surface to be. It involves important principles, creates a dangerous precedent, and as such the *Bengalee* feels it its duty to raise its voice against it and hopes a mere sense of delicacy will not seal the lips of public men in regard to the real and inner bearings of the Bill.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

174. The *Hindoo Patriot* has complete faith in Lord Curzon's sense of justice, and thinks and hopes that nothing that is not strictly right and just will be allowed. The relations with Native States require most delicate and careful handling, and the *Patriot* does not believe that anything that will prejudice the best and real interests of Government will be permitted.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
31st Jan. 1903.

175. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that a regency composed of the nobles of Indore should be appointed to administer its affairs freely, without British interference. The people of India would be gratified if His Excellency could find his way to bring about a happy settlement of the case. It cannot be forgotten that at least two princes have already been deposed, and the Berars incorporated, under the rule of Lord Curzon. Whether these acts are justifiable is another question, but there is no doubt that they have not given the Indian people satisfaction.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
31st Jan. 1903.

176. The *Bengalee* expresses the opinion that, in the orders passed in connection with the abdication of the Maharaja Holkar, the Government of India should not permit the reigning family and the State to suffer. The Government at Indore should be purely native and one in which the influence and position of the reigning family should be adequately recognised. It desires to warn the Government against the appointment of a European Superintendent or Member of Council. In other States the experiment has been tried and has failed, and has elicited the strong opposition of the Native Princes concerned. Such a proceeding would amount to covert annexation for the time being. There is the British Resident who is always available for advice and guidance. What need is there for further European management?

BENGALIE,
31st Jan. 1903.

177. *Power and Guardian* very much regrets that the régime of Lord Curzon should be associated with a painful memory of the deposition of several ruling Chiefs, for instance Bhratpur and Panna, and is greatly shocked and taken aback at the announcement of the abdication of the Maharaja Holkar. It trusts Lord Curzon however to do the right thing in the matter, and is convinced that with a strong ruler like His Excellency, there could not have been any plot to depose His Highness the Maharaja.

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
1st Feb. 1903.

178. The *Indian Mirror* considers it to be a positive mercy that the Maharaja has been allowed to slide into oblivion so gently. He might have been deposed and deported years ago, for since his boyhood His Highness has displayed more spirit than discretion, and has been his own worst enemy.

INDIAN MIRROR,
3rd Feb. 1903.

The journal hopes that the present ruler will study and profit by the misfortunes of his father, whose meteoric existence is blotted out of the political heavens.

179. The same journal regards the exit of Sir Sivaji Rao Holkar as pathetic and dignified, his address to his son as containing wise, wholesome and sound advice which those who have the moulding of the embryo ruler of Indore will do well to bear in mind as much as the young Maharaja himself.

INDIAN MIRROR,
4th Feb. 1903.

INDIAN MIRROR
4th Feb. 1903.

180. The same journal expresses its profound dissatisfaction with the arrangements made for the Administration of the Indore State. It asks who is the Regent appointed, and whether the Sirdars, the hereditary nobles, and the Pikkars are adequately represented on the Council. As at present constituted the Council of Regency is doomed to failure. Gild it as you may, it is not a Council of Regency in form, and it does not awaken those associations which such a Council never fails to create.

BENGALÉE,
4th Feb. 1903.

181. In wishing to know why the official *communiqué* on the subject of the abdication of the Maharaja Holkar, which was published in an Anglo-Indian journal on Sunday the 1st was not sent to the *Indian Mirror* and itself, the *Bengalée* writes:—

"We have a grievance, and we venture to think a legitimate grievance, in connection with the distinction made between the Indian and the Anglo-Indian Press in a matter which comes more home to the Indian Press and in which it has shown a far keener interest than the Anglo-Indian Press has done. There was a time when a distinction of this kind would not have been noticed. But those days are past and gone. The Native Press is now a power, and day by day with the growth of culture and education and the self-respect of the community it is becoming a rapidly-expanding power, and we desire to warn the Foreign Office that it must make up its mind to reckon with this new-born power; and we may add that absolute traditions conceived in distrust and suspicion and enforced amid darkness and secrecy must disappear before the growing forces of light and culture."

BENGALÉE,
6th Feb. 1903.

182. The *Bengalée* has no hesitation in saying that the Council of Regency, which with a slight change in the *personnel* has been governing Indore since 1900 without giving public satisfaction, is open to grave objection, as doing away with the native administration in substance if not in form. It is not a Council in the real sense of the term. It will not advise but will shield a powerful minister and divide with him responsibilities which he alone should share. It will be filled with men whose one great object will be to secure by sacrificing their independence the renewal of their term of office as often as possible. In short it will consist of a minister who will be the organ of and members who must necessarily be subservient to the Resident.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th Feb. 1903.

183. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that it is not known generally how "brutally" some Indian Princes are treated by their "keepers." This is explained by the fact that ordinary men, with indifferent education and perhaps of low extraction, suddenly find themselves the masters of sovereign Princes. They grow dizzy in consequence and feel a pleasure in insulting the helpless Princes in their keeping. Thus it is that the lives of many of them are made miserable and like the Patna Prince they terminate their existence, or, like Holkar, abdicate their throne.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

EAST,
31st Jan. 1903.

184. The *East* takes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* to task for attempting to bring the name of Lady Curzon into ridicule as having suggested the Delhi Darbar so as to take precedence over her English sisters and even Royalty itself. There is etiquette in all matters in respectable society. Is there to be none in journalism?

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 7th February 1903.

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.